

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 A-01 OPR-02 OC-06 CCO-00 SAM-01 SAB-01

IO-13 AID-05 SSM-03 SY-05 DPW-01 DHA-02 SSO-00 /103 W

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O P 281407Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1371

INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE PRIORITY 33

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM

CINCUSNAVEUR, LONDON ENG

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER

CIA WASHDC

COMSIXTHFLT

COMPHIBRON FOUR

COM THREE TWO MAU

CTF SIX ZERO

CTF SIX ONE

CTF SIX TWO

CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO

FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA

FOSIF ROTA SPAIN

DIA WASHDC

CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 6676

STUTTGART FOR ELG

E.O. 1'-90C GDS

TAGS: MILI, PINS, PINT, LE

SUBJECT: LEBANESE SITUATION JULY 28: PLO LOOKS AT PROPOSED AGREEMENT
WITH SYRIA; MILITARY SITUATION RELATIVELY CALM AS CHRISTIANS BRAWL.

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REF: BEIRUT 6654

1. SUMMARY: PLO DELEGATION RETURNS FROM DAMASCUS WITH DRAFT AGREEMENT. PRINCIPAL POINTS INCLUDE RETURN TO CAIRO ACCORDS, LEBANESE NATIONAL DIALOG UNDER SARKIS, CEASEFIRE UNDER QUADRIpartite COMMITTEE JG AL FORCES SURVEILLANCE, LEBANESE NATIONAL UNITY, AND LEBANESE POLITICAL REFORM. SYRIAN MILITARY PRESENCE IN LEBANON NOT ADDRESSED BY AGREEMENT. SYRIANS PRESSING FOR RETURN OF SAIQA AND PLA TO PALESTINIAN MOVEMENT. LEBANESE LEFTISTS AND PALESTINIAN REJECTIONISTS UNHAPPY WITH TEXT, ESPECIALLY ITS SILENCE ON SYRIAN MILITARY PRESENCE. CHRISTIANS EXPECTED TO SUPPORT AGREEMENT. BRAWLING IN CHRISTIAN CAMP LATE JULY 27 FOLLOWED AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENT INVOLVING GIRL FRIEND OF NATIONAL LIBERAL MILITARY FIGURE AND PHALANGISTS, BUT ENDED IN REMARKABLE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT NATIONAL LIBERALS AND PHALANGISTS WOULD ESTABLISH JOINT MILITARY COMMAND. MILITARY LULL CONTINUES. PALESTINIANS CLAIM 150 CORPSES FOUND AT TELL ZAATAR. NABAA QUIET FOR A CHANGE. CHRISTIAN PUSH IN HIGH METN GAINS MOMENTUM. END SUMMARY.

2. PALESTINIAN DELEGATION RETURNING FROM DAMASCUS MET FIRST WITH PLO LEADERSHIP FOR FIVE HOURS EARLY JULY 27. ARAFAT AND OTHER PLO LEADERS MET LATE JULY 27 WITH JUNBLATT AND OTHER LEBANESE LEFTIST LEADERS. DELEGATION IS SCHEDULED TO RETURN TO DAMASCUS JULY 28 WITH VARIOUS PROPOSED CHANGES IN AGREEMENT.

3. WE UNDERSTAND DRAFT SYRIAN-PALESTINIAN AGREEMENT HAS FOLLOWING PRINCIPAL POINTS:
- RETURN TO 1969 CAIRO ACCORDS ON PALESTINIAN STATUS IN LEBANON, TO INCLUDE PRECISIONS OF 1973 SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENT AND POINTS RELATING TO ACCORDS IN FEBRUARY 1976 LEBANESE "CONSTITUTIONAL DOCUMENT."

- LEBANESE-LEBANESE NATIONAL DIALOG UNDER AUSPICES OF PRESIDENT-ELECT SARKIS, WHO IS TO FORM NATIONAL UNITY CABINET.
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- COUNTRY-WIDE CEASEFIRE, AND DISMANTLING OF MILITARY POSITIONS WITHIN ONE WEEK. TO BE SUPERVISED BY QUADRIpartite COMMITTEE OF SYRIANS, PALESTINIANS, LEBANESE LEFTISTS AND LEBANESE RIGHTISTS. (THIS WAS ORIGINALLY TO BE TRIpartite COMMITTEE WITH SINGLE LEBANESE REPRESENTATION - SEE SITREP JULY 27.)

- COMMITTEE TO BE AIDED BY BOTH ARAB LEAGUE
FORCES AND "OTHER FORCES."

- PRESERVATION OF LEBANESE NATIONAL UNITY.

- REFORM OF LEBANESE POLITICAL SYSTEM.

4. AGREEMENT SAYS NOTHING ABOUT SYRIAN MILITARY
PRESENCE IN LEBANON. SYRIANS REPORTEDLY RAISED TWO
OTHER ISSUES WITH PALESTINIAN DELEGATION: 1)
PALESTINIAN-LEBANESE LEFTIST ALLIANCE, WHICH SYRIA
CONSIDERS FUNDAMENTAL DEVIATION FROM PRINCIPLES
OF PALESTINIAN NATIONAL MOVEMENT; AND 2) RESTORATION
OF SA'IDA AND PALESTINIAN LIBERATION ARMY (PLA) TO
PLO. PALESTINIANS REPORTED RELUCTANT TO SEE DIRECT
ENDORSEMENT IN AGREEMENT OF FEBRUARY 1976 LEBANESE
"CONSTITUTIONAL DOCUMENT."

5. PRINCIPAL STUMBLING BLOCKS WILL BE JUNBLATT-LED
LEBANESE LEFTISTS AND PALESTINIAN REJECTIONISTS.
AFTER MEETING WITH PLO, JUNBLATT REPEATED DEMAND
FOR TOTAL WITHDRAWAL OF SYRIAN FORCES FROM LEBANON,
AND SAID PRIME MINISTER KARAME, AS HEAD OF GOVERNMENT,
OUGHT TO REQUEST SYRIAN WITHDRAWAL. HE ALSO CALLED
FOR ARAB LEAGUE FORCE OF 6,000 TO 10,000 TROOPS.
REJECTIONISTS, TOO, REPORTED STILL DEMANDING COMPLETE
SYRIAN WITHDRAWAL, AS WELL AS RELEASE OF PALESTINIANS
CLAIMED HELD PRISONER BY SYRIA. AGREEMENT ON HOW TO
SETTLE TEL EL ZAATAR WILL BE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT AND
MAY JEOPARDIZE ENTIRE ACCORD. CHRISTIAN SIDTI STARTED
BY AN-NAHAR AS CONFIDENT OF FIRM ASSURANCES FROM
SYRIANS THAT IT WILL BE FULLY CONSIDERED ON AGREEMENT,
AND SUPPORTS IT IN PRINCIPLE, BUT HAS NOT YET SEEN
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COMPLETE TEXT.

6. TENSIONS WITHIN CHRISTIAN CAMP EXPLODED
AFTERNOON JULY 27 WHEN AUTOMOBILE BEING DRIVEN BY
GIRL FRIEND OF NATIONAL LIBERAL MILITARY LEADER
JOSEPH BOUSTANI IN JOUNIE COLLIDED WITH VEHICLE
CARRYING TWO PHALANGISTS. WHEN NATIONAL LIBERAL
PATROL ARRIVED ON SCENE, SHOOTOUT ENSUED WHICH
QUICKLY SPREAD TO AREAS IN EAST BEIRUT. IN SUBSEQUENT
BRAWLING, CHAMOUN'S PERSONAL CAR WAS SET AFIRE AND
HIS DRIVER ROUGHED UP. PHALANGISTS BLEW UP NATIONAL
LIBERAL OFFICE IN JOUNIE. CAMILLE CHAMOUN AND PIERRE
GEMAYEL LATER ISSUED JOINT STATEMENT, DEPLORING THE
INCIDENT AND INCLUDING RATHER REMARKABLE ASSERTION
THAT CHAMOUNIST "TIGERS" AND PHALANGE MILITIA WERE

FORMING JOINT MILITARY COMMAND.

7. MILITARY SITUATION QUIET IN MOST AREAS. AT TELL ZAATAR, PALESTINIANS CLAIM SOME 150 CORPSES OF PERSONS TRAPPED UNDERGROUND SINCE LATE LAST WEEK WERE RETRIEVED. OTHERS ARE STILL CLAIMED TRAPPED. NO PROGRESS ON POSSIBLE ICRC EVACUATION FROM CAMP. AT NABAA, JULY 27 WAS RELATIVELY QUIET. PALESTINIANS/ LEFTISTS CLAIM HAVE DISMANTLED SEVERAL BARRICADES ERECTED BY ARMENIANS. ARMENIAN LEADERS SAY THEY AND LEFTISTS HAVE ESTABLISHED THREE JOINT COMMITTEES TO ASSURE A CEASEFIRE. SHIITE LEADER IMAM MUSA SADR HAS REQUESTED STATIONING OF ARAB LEAGUE FORCES AT NABAA AS WELL AS ASSISTANCE OF ICRC TO EVACUATE WOUNDED FROM AREA. THE USUAL ARTILLERY EXCHANGES AND SNIPER FIRE BETWEEN EAST AND WEST BEIRUT CONTINUE.

8. IN THE METI, CONSIDERABLE FIGHTING DEVELOPED IN VICINITY OF MOUNT SANNINE AS CHRISTIAN METN OFFENSIVE GAINS MOMENTUM. PALESTINIANS CLAIM CHRISTIAN INFANTRY AND TANKS ATTACKED THEIR POSITIONS AT ZAAROUR, AND THAT AREA WAS OVERFLOWN BY SYRIAN MIG-21'S.
HUNT

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENT DRAFT, ARMISTICE, CIVIL DISORDERS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BEIRUT06676
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760291-1063
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760715/aaaaamtk.tel
Line Count: 193
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 BEIRUT 6654
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 MAR 2004 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <24 AUG 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LEBANESE SITUATION JULY 28: PLO LOOKS AT PROPOSED AGREEMENT WITH SYRIA; MILITARY SITUATION RELATIVELY CALM
AS CHRISTIANS BRAWL. CONFIDENTIAL
TAGS: MILI, PINS, PINT, LE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006